

FLD 867

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 9 October, exercises were observed in the area south and south-west of Weimar. The Ohrdruf-Kranichfeld-Bad Berka-Blankenhain region was cordoned off by the Volkspolizei. At about 0830 hours, a signal unit of the Eighth Guards Army passed through Weimar by road, proceeding in the direction of

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Jena. At 0900 hours, 25 T-34/85 tanks

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two BA-64 armored scout cars and a number of motor vehicles arrived in Weimar from the east, were detrained and left toward Bad Berka.

A shipment of heavy tanks was unloaded in Weimar during the night. On 10 October, unloading of the following equipment was observed in Weimar:

- a. 0600 hours: A shipment of anti-aircraft guns and light mortars, belonging to the Eighth Guards Army;

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- b. 0700 hours: 25 T-34/85 tanks

- c. 0900 hours: Twelve 76.2 mm field guns, 38 trucks and 550 troops, presumably of the Eighth Guards Army;

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- d. 1100 hours: 24 T-34/85 tanks and four trucks

- e. 1200 hours: 10 BA-64 armored scout cars with sidecars and seven light trucks

with numbers between 100 and 150. SECRET

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e. 1700 hours: 30 to 35 motorcycles with sidecars and seven T-34/85 tanks

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2. During the night of 9 October, a large number of tanks and trucks were observed passing through Goeschwitz by road and by rail. They came from the direction of Camburg/Saale and proceeded towards Rheinstaedter Grund where major exercises are said to be held.¹

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3. On 12 October, no aircraft were observed at Brand airfield, and only six MiG-15's at Welzow airfield.²

4. On 8 and 9 October, two columns, comprising a total of about 60 trucks and 120 troops with equipment, left Brueckenkopf Kaserne in Wittenberg.²

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5. On 8 October, only 26 IL-2's were observed at Alt Loennowitz airfield, while most IL-10's appeared to have left. A radio installation had also been removed. On 9 and 10 October, 16 IL-2's and 16 single-engine aircraft were observed at Schkeuditz airfield near Leipzig. On 10 October, about 400 air force soldiers and twelve single-engine aircraft were observed at Merseburg airfield.³

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Comment: These reports confirm the assumption that exercises are underway in the Ohrdruf-Weimar-Kahla area. No definite information on the identity of participating units has been received. The troops detrained at Weimar belong to the 20th Guards Mechanized Division.

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The woods in the Bad Berka - Blankenhain area probably served as an assembly area for troop units arriving by road from the Ohrdruf area or detraining in Weimar. Exercises presumably included a west-to-east crossing of the Saale river in the Jena-Kahla region.

2. This confirms the transfer of the two fighter regiments from Brand and Welzow to Erfurt and Altenburg airfields during the exercises in Thuringia. The departure of troops with equipment from Wittenberg appears to indicate that the Southern Fighter Corps Headquarters, probably with signal units, participated in the exercises.

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3. Comment: This apparently confirms the transfer of the fighter regiments from Welzow, Grossenhain and Brand, and also the transfer of ground-attack regiments to other airfields during the Thuringia exercises.

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